

IRA

did you ever see a midnight shadow
ira said he did but then
he was always seeing things and sometimes he
told us about them
once he even saw two men lying in
the bushes naked, but he could
never get beyond that
for teacher would stop him then
and scold him for telling
such
things and
at recess he always
stuck to himself and
never seemed to want to play
he was always looking at bugs
or else at the sky in fact
he seemed to always be looking
toward the the sky just above the top of the school
there was something funny
in his look
almost as though he were
homesick, but
that's silly for we all knew
where ira lived
after school he'd walk by himself
toward the forest's edge and then he'd
look around to make sure we weren't watching and
then he'd take off through the woods to his house down
by the river (so he said)
but we could never find out
our folks wouldn't let us go in
the woods
they said at night there were weird
LIGHTS, and betsy's mom thought it was flying
saucers
betsy asked ira about it he just said no but he
did see a flying saucer once and people came
out they looked just like us except
they had only FOUR toes and they
had a boy just IRA's age
one day(
soon after that) at recess betsy invited
the whole class to come to her house
kick their shoes off
and wade in her little pool
but ira said
no he liked the feel of shoes on his feet
and then he looked down at his old shoes
and then off into the sky
just above the school

